Vol. III. Numb. 123.

The British Apollo:

OR,

Curious Amuſements for the INGENIOUS.

To which are Added the moſt

Material Occurrences Foreign and Domeſtick.

Perform'd by ſome of the Society of GENTLEMEN, *Concern'd in the Firſt and Second* VOLUME, *with the Aſſiſtance of other Ingenious* PERSONS.

From **Wedneſday** January 3d. to **Friday** January 5th. 1711.

WHEREAS the Subſcribers to this Paper (laſt Quarter) paid their Money to a Servant of the Proprietors; it being too much Trouble for one to gather in the ſame; you are therefore deſired to pay it to the Men as formerly, who will give you a Printed Receipt for the ſame, Sign'd by,

J. Mayo.

GENTLEMEN,

Q. I *Deſire you to Reconcile the* 9th. Chapter *of the* Acts *and the* 7th Verſe, *to* Chapter *the* 22d. *and the* 9th. *And you will highly Oblige,*

Your Humble Servant, J. S.

A. Commentators have found out various ways to reconcile the ſeeming Contradiction in theſe two Places: The moſt plauſible ſeems to be this. They heard a Voice, but οὐκ ἤκουσαν *they underſtand not*, the Words of him that ſpake unto me. For οὐκ ἀκούειν frequently in Scripture ſignifies not to underſtand what we hear. Thus God ſaith of the Builders of *Babel*, *let us confound their Tongues*, ἵνα μὴ ἀκούσωσιν, *that they may not underſtand one anothers Speech.* Gen. 11. 7. And St. *Paul* ſaith, *He that ſpeaketh in an unknown Tongue, ſpeaketh not to Men but to God,* οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀκούει, *for no Man underſtands him.* 1 Cor. 14. 2. Several other Inſtances may be produced, but theſe are ſufficient to ſhew that our Tranſlators might with as good (if not better) Reaſon render οὐκ ἤκουσαν in *Chap.* 22. *they underſtood not*, as they have done in theſe Inſtances here produced, and ſo removed the Appearance of this Contradiction.

Q. Gentlemen, *Pray what is the meaning and Original of the Word* Yule, *and why is Chriſtmas ſo called in the Northern and ſeveral other Parts of* Great-Britain?

A. The Learned Dr. *Hammond* is of Opinion, that the Word *Yule* is taken from the Latin *Jubilum*, as that ſignifies a time of Rejoicing and Feſtivity; it is certain that *Jubilum* it ſelf is taken from the *Hebrew* יובל, ſignifying the longer and louder ſounding of the Trumpet, which was uſed to call Men to Aſſemblies, and Feſtivals. And from thence we know that was their Word to ſignifie any Feſtivity either Day or Year. But the *Hebrew* י being pronounced by moſt Nations like *y* and not as *j* Conſonant, *jubil* may without any Difficulty be ſuppoſed changed into *yubil*. And as for the other Change in the Word, the ſoftning the *b*, or turning it into *u*, nothing is more ordinary. This Deriſation of *Yule* is at leaſt more probable, than that which the Puritans out of their Zeal againſt the obſerving of Chriſtmas and other Feſtivals, formerly ſuggeſted. For they imagined that Chriſtmas had it firſt Rice from the degenerate Chriſtians conforming themſelves to the mad Feaſts of the *Romans*, called *Saturnalia*, which were kept in *December* in Honour of *Saturn* the Father of the Gods, in which there was a Feaſt offered to *Ceres* Goddeſs of Corn, and a Hymn Sung in her Praiſe, called Ἴολος or Ἴολος from whence ſay they, *Yule* is derived. But this conceit of theirs proceeded from their Ignorance in Antiquity. The *Saturnalia*, 'tis true were a *Roman* Feaſt, celebrated by them in *December* and often continued the whole Month. But for *Ceres*'s Games, they appear not to have any thing to do there, but to be of the *Greek* Original; and the offering of the Sheaf to her, (which is indeed by *Theocritus Eidyll.* 10 and others called Ἴολος) was practiced only by the Heathen *Grecks*, as far as we can find.

Q. Gentlemen, *There being a Fiſh* (*very uncommon in* Lisbon) *called by Name a* Nummfiſh,

which if taken hold of while alive, immediately Numms the Joints; ſo that the Part which is touch'd is void of any feeling, during the time one holds it, I deſire you'll inform me in your next the reaſon thereof which will ever lay an Obligation on

Your Admirer and Humble Servant, J. S.

A. This is better known to the Engliſh by the Name of *Crampfiſh*, called in the *Latin Torpedo*, a Deſcription of which See in Mr. *Ray*'s Edition of *Willoughby*'s *Ichthyographia*. The ſtrange benumming Faculty it is endued with is not eaſily accounted for: only it is to be obſerved that one may touch it without any Danger, either when it is Dead or when it lyes ſtill. Hence *Alphonſus Borellus* concludes that the Stupifaction does not proceed from any poiſonous Quality proceeding from the Body of the Fiſh, but meerly from the violent Trembling and Convulſions the Fiſh is put into, eſpecially when touched near the Throat, where there are ſuch a vaſt Multitude of Nerves and Muſcles.

Q. Hon. Gentlemen, *What is the eſſential difference between the two Elements, of Air and Water.*

Your Humble Servant, J. T.

A. Dr. *Hook* ſeems to be of Opinion that the Air is nothing elſe but a kind of Tincture or Solution of Terreſtrial and aqueous Particles diſſolved in and agitated by the Æther: If ſo, Water and Air are not eſſentially diſtinguiſhed.

Q. *This is very ſtrange*, APOLLO! *I have appear'd before your Shrine in all manner of ſhapes, but have very rarely had any Notice taken of me. I addreſs'd you once in Divinity, with a Scruple of Conſcience, but meet no Anſwer; then I turn'd Poet, but you gave me a kick, on which I forſook that Art. Next I was a Philoſopher, but then you was as Mute as Midnight. I took upon me to be an Humoriſt, on which you gave me a ſcurvy bite, which made me Heartſick of ſuch like Attempts. After this I turn'd Lover, but wou'd not for the World, have had my Miſtreſs ſeen your Anſwer, for then ſhe had baniſh'd me for ever. Being ſo ſcurvily diſappointed in my expectations, I attempted a Queſtion in Metaphyſics, but (pardon the irreverence of the Compariſon) your Oracle was then as Dumb as a Dead Dog. After that, I approach'd with a Law Query, and you ſent me to the Lawyers for a Solution; which I cou'd have done without your Advice, cou'd I have afforded a Fee, beſides the Caſe was not my own, ſo was willing to beſtow but a Penny upon it. Being ſtill thus baulk'd, I ſent you a Queſtion in Phyſick, and you ſent me to the Doctors, and I find I might have gone to the Devil for any Care you took of me. At length to ſecure to my ſelf more Civil Uſage, I chang'd Sex, and Subſcrib'd* SILVIA. *Thought I, any thing that gave you a Notion of the Feminine Gender, wou'd raiſe a Titilation, and engage your Reſpect, but you gave me ſuch an Anſwer, as made me ready to bepiſs my Peticoats, and to forſwear ever changing Sexes again. Nor have I only been thus conſtant a Devotee at your Shrine, but have alſo ſuffer'd much for my Zeal towards you. Once neglecting my Maſters Buſineſs to Write to you (for you muſt know I am the Moiety of an Attorny's Giblets) I had a ſound box of the Ear for my Pains; another time, having clear'd my Pockets at the* Cock, *the Night before, I trotted a Mile and a Quarter (Lawful meaſure of* England) *to deliver my Letter my ſelf, and what griev'd me to the Heart was, that Letter, hath lain in the dark ſhades of Oblivion to this Day. Now, Dear, Sweet, Obliging* APOLLO, *be ſo Courteous as to inform me, why I have been thus ſcurvily us'd, and you will much engage your Querift, who at this preſent time of Writing is,*

PHILANDER.

A. Monſieur *Proteus*, we have long obſerv'd you in all your ſhapes, but the Principle thing we obſerv'd was, that there was little in you worthy our Obſervation. You appear to be one of thoſe Sparks (of which kind, we have many in Town) who ſet up for an Underſtanding in Generals, before they have attain'd to it, in any one particular, to their own diſcredit, and the injury of their Country; of which they might have been uſeful Members, did they confine their Labours to one Art. Thus one ſhall miſtake his Talents, and prove a wretched Philoſopher, when he might have made a good Shoemaker. Another appears a Blockhead in Divinity, when he might have attain'd to the perfect Miſtery of an Ale-Draper: But unpardonable above all, are they, who aim at every thing, and are good at nothing. Therefore our Friendly Advice is, as you are the Apurtenance of an Attorney, to attempt no other Diſcoveries, than of the Secrets in the *Green Bag*, and you may poſſibly come to live thereby, provided you make your whole Application thereunto. For ever renounce the *Cock*, and confine your ſelf to ſo juſt a Diet, as may not exceed two Drams, the Importunate call of Nature; but if you ſcatter abroad your Idea's as you have hitherto done, on various Objects, and not collect them into one Body for a particular Uſe, we cannot long promiſe you Immunity from a Stone Doubler.

POEMS.

Q. APOLLO *pray ſay,*
If you have any way,
T'excuſe your Prediction of late;
Which ſo boldly you,
Did ſay wou'd enſue,
And be unavoidable Fate.

The Wars you pretended,
Wou'd quickly be ended;
And cruell Hoſtilities ceaſe;
All Europe *wou'd be,*
From Bloody Scenes free,
And Crown'd with a durable Peace.

Young Anjou *in vain*
Hop'd longer to Reign,
But yield to King Charles *his juſt Right.*
Nor ever be led
Again to make Head;
Diſgrac'd by ſo ſhameful a Flight.

Wiſe

Wiſe Phœbus *pray tell us,*
(Impos'd upon Fellows)
Where now is the Peace *you foreſhew ;*
How can we opine,
You ought can Divine,
Or tell us one Word that is True,

By all 'tis believ'd,
Anjou *has retriev'd,*
The Fortune, which lately he loſt :
And tho' we ſo fully,
Believ'd him a Bully,
The Conſequence Anſwers his Boaſt,

Is't not too as plain,
Charles *has loſt all* Spain,
His Army in Battle defeated ;
And tho' they prove Manfull,
There is but an Handfull,
That back again ſafely retreated.

How can it prove true,
A Peace *will enſue,*
When ſuch great advantage is gain'd,
Or which way believe,
A Turn *we can give,*
When by ſuch great Loſſes reſtrain'd.

A, Thus Mortals below,
Their Judgment beſtow,
On meer ſuperficial view ;
And if Cauſes lye,
Not plain to the Eye,
Can never believe they are true,

Tho' every Hour,
Beyond their weak Power
To Judge, they ſee Objects ariſe,
Yet know not their Cauſe,
Nor conceal'd Laws,
Hid from their Inquiſitive Eyes.

Nay if Things don't hit,
As they fancy fit,
They ſtrait are ſo fond to conclude,
That *Heav'n* knows no Ways
Beſides to diſplay
It's Will, which is imp'ously rude.

Was not laſt Campaign,
The Victory in *Spain,*
Beyond all Conception or Thought,
Then tell us why may,
A more glorious Day
Not by th' ſame Pow'rs be wrought.

But whence is the boaſt,
Of *Anjou* and's Hoſt,
On what has he now gotten more,
Has he ought but *Spain,*
Recover'd again
Of which he'd Poſſeſſion before ?

Nay did he not drain
His Realms, to maintain,
The Forces the *French* did advance,
Who muſt return Home,
When longer Days come,
For ſecuring the Borders of *France.*

While *Charles* we recruit,
Upon the leaſt Suit,
And *Anjou* in Force is Diminiſh'd ;
You need not to doubt,
E'er a Year comes about,
But th' *Peace* we foretold, will be finiſh'd.

'Tis pleaſant to hear,
The Proofs which appear,
Of Wealth they had got by the Fight ;
And yet ſaid before,
Th' *Allies* were all poor,
Which way was it now they came by't ?

If they'd it from *Spain,*
Anjou has again,
But what was his Subjects before ;
How can they perſuade,
They Richer are made,
Upon ſo ridic'lous a ſcore ?

But *Lies* and *Romance,*
Are the Province of *France,*
Which ſhews that her *Cauſe* is unſound ;
While *Truth* the *Allies,*
More gen'rouſly prize,
Who always the *Victor* is found.

☞ Any Perſon may have the *Index* to the Second Volume of the *Britiſh Apollo,* alſo whole Sets Bound or Unbound, and Single Sheets to make up Sets of the ſaid Volume, of the Men in their Walks, or of *J. Mayo,* over againſt *Water-Lane, Fleet-Street.*

SIR,

THE Letters from the Hague, Jan. 9. Adviſe that in a Conference that was lately held between certain Foreign Miniſters and thoſe of this State. Notice was given, that the French had fill'd their Magazines upon the Frontiers with Corn from England and theſe Countries ; That now it muſt be confeſs'd, that a great many Paſports were granted by their High-Mightineſſes, for tranſporting that Commodity into Brabant and Flanders, to provide the Magazines of this State ; but at the ſame time, the utmoſt Caution was taken, to prevent the Abuſe

of

of thoſe Paſports; That if, after all, Fraud has been us'd by the Merchants, they ran the Riſque of being ſeverely puniſh'd for it; That 'tis highly probable their High-Mightineſſes will hereafter be more ſparing of ſuch Paſports than they have been; That as the Enemy cannot furniſh their Magazines but with Waggon-Carriage, and that by impracticable Roads, eſpecially at this Seaſon of the Year, a Deſign is form'd, to oblige them to empty thoſe they now have, by giving them Umbrage at the March of Troops; That 'tis not in the leaſt doubted, but for fear we ſhould break thro' their ſtrong Lines, they will draw down the Troops that are quarter'd far up in France, to defend them; and that by this means their Magazines will be exhauſted, beyond Recovery; That Troops are now perhaps, or will be ſpeedily, on March to give them this Umbrage; That as for the Magazines of the Allies, they are not only very plentifully provided already; but whatever ſhall be taken from them by Reaſon of the Enterprize in queſtion, may, with Eaſe and at a very inconſiderable Expence, be made good, thro' the great Conveniency of the Carriage by Water, the Rivers being now open, and in the Power of the High Allies.

London, January the 5th.

Robert Walpole, Eſq. has reſign'd his Office of Treaſurer of the Navy, and is ſucceeded by Ralph Freeman, Eſq.

Francis Gwynn, Eſq. is appointed Poſtmaſter General of Great Britain.

Which is all from Yours, &c.

†*† Notice is hereby given to all Gentlemen that have Subſcribed to the firſt Volume of the *Britiſh Apollo* in Octavo, that the ſaid Book will be Publiſhed the 12th of this Inſtant *January*, where all Perſons may have their Books at thoſe Places where they Subſcribed at, *Viz.* Mr. *Clarks* in *Birching-Lane*. Mr. *Woodwards* in *Scalding-Alley*, both near the *Royal-Exchange*: Mr. *Carters* in St. *Pauls Church-Yard*. Mr. *Bickerton* in *Little-Britain*, Bookſellers, or of *J. Mayo*, Printer hereof, over againſt *Water-Lane*, *Fleet-ſtreet*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the Office of Inſurance on Marriage, in *Bolt-Court*, *Fleet-Street*, any Perſon by Paying 2 s. for a Policy, Stamps and Entrance, and 2 *s.* towards each Marriage, until their own, may ſecure to themſelves 200. *Note*, Ten Perſons, for 4 *l.* 6 *s.* by them paid, received above 390 *l.* and Two others, in 14 Days will receive near 200 *l.* and after that time each Claim will amount to above 120 *l.* which will be daily more and more, till full, which ſufficiently ſhews the Advantages of this Office are much greater than any other of this kind pretend to.

A General Meeting of the Subſcribers was held at *Sadler's-Hall*, in *Cheapſide*, on *Thurſday*, *October* the 19, 1710, and a Second Six Truſtees were added to the former, to whom Security is given, purſuant to the Propoſals which may be had *Gratis*, at the Office.

FROM the Office of Inſurance on Marriage, in King's Head Court, in Petticoat Lane, near Biſhopſgate Street.

Notice is hereby given, that ſince the Death of Mr. Tho. Edwards late Director of this Office, the ſame is continued by his Widow and Adminiſtratrix, where daily Attendance is given, and Policies delivered out as uſual.

N. B. This Office hath met with ſuch ſucceſs, that above Fourteen hundred Perſons have already ſubſcribed, and it is not doubted but it will be compleat within 5 or 6 Weeks, that Claims will begin to be paid by the 16th Inſtant, the ſaid Mr. Edwards having, before his death, cauſed 12 Truſtees to be choſen at Sadler's-Hall, to whom Security is given, according to the Articles of Settlement, and the ſaid Truſtees are reſolved to ſupport and encourage the ſaid Widow and Adminiſtratrix in this lawful Undertaking.

The Office on Births is in like manner continued, where daily Attendance is given and Policies delivered out as uſual.

AT the Faithful Office of Inſurance at the Widow Pratt's Coffee-Houſe, in Cat-Eaton-Street, by St. Lawrence's Church, nigh Guild-Hall; were lately opened Two Subſcriptions upon Marriage, One of 5 s. which entitles the Inſurer to 500 l. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. which entitles the Inſurer to 250 l. and as many as Inſure in both, will be entitled to 750 l. provided the Societies be compleat, otherwiſe in proportion. Note, any Perſon, if they come ſpeedily, may enter upon 3 Months [illegible] are open'd Two Subſcriptions on Births of Children, One of 5 s. and the Other 2 s. 6 d. where the Subſcribers will be entitled to the reſpective Sums above mention'd. In both theſe Societies ten Weeks, any Perſon may enter upon 6 Weeks or 2 Months, and ſo on to 5 Months and no further, by which means theſe Offices will undoubtedly ſubſiſt and be carried on from Year to Year. Note, that Parents, we do not oblige any Perſon to be, tho' their Children, but only to bring a Certificate that the Child liv'd 24 Hours after its Birth. Propoſals may be had Gratis, at the Office, where conſtant Attendance is given.

THE Front ſide of a good Houſe, Situate in a Clear Aire Court, in Fleet-ſtreet, not far from Temple-Bar, is to be Let, with great Conveniencies, commodious for Five or Six in Family. Enquire at Steward's Coffee-Houſe, in Three-King-Court, Fleet-ſtreet.

A Patent under the Great Seal of England has been granted to Charles Holman in Red-Lion-Street in Southwark, for the making of his London Ink-Powder for Records. Being Moſt Excellent for all Perſons to make their Writing-Ink as black and as ſtrong as they pleaſe. Each ſix penny Paper makes a Pint of the beſt, or Pint and half, or Quart for Shop-keeper's common Writing or Marking-Ink, only by ſhaking or ſtirring it in ſo much Rain or River-Water; and it amends all weak and pale Ink, or Ink ſpoiled by the Froſt, and Directions to each Paper of Powder, to prevent Ink from Freezing. 'Tis Sold by moſt Stationers, Bookſellers and Haberdaſhers in and about London; and by Shop-keepers in the chiefeſt Cities and Towns in England. And that none may be impoſed on by any falſe Pretenders, Cheats or Counterfeits, this only has been publickly Experienced for many Years, and Appoved for the beſt Ink in moſt parts of the World.

LONDON: Printed for, and Sold by *J. Mayo*, at the *Printing-Preſs* againſt *Water-Lane* in *Fleet-Street*. Where Advertiſements are Taken in.